



## Land Preservation Options

Land Preservation can be accomplished in a variety of ways. If it is good quality farmland with a future in farming, the State Agricultural Preservation restriction Program (APR) is the best option. Our Ogonowski Memorial Field is protected with an APR.

Conservation Restrictions (CR) are implemented through the State Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (OEEA) and can protect any type of land.

The Dracut Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is based on a State initiative, the Community Preservation Act, which has funds that can be used to purchase development rights or the land itself.

Land can also be preserved through the Dracut Conservation Commission. Both DLTI and CPC can work with the landowner to craft individual restrictions. The advantage of DLTI is that it is private so it has the flexibility of a non-governmental organization.



## To Assist In This Cause

If you have a parcel of open space that you would like to preserve with a conservation restriction or know of a parcel of open space that you would like to protect, could you please bring this to the attention of the Dracut Land Trust Inc. Tax deductible contributions can also be made to DLTI to continue this work into the future. Checks can be made payable to DLTI and mailed to the address below.



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**Dracut Land Trust Inc.**





## Introduction

The purpose of the Dracut Land Trust Inc. (DLTI) is to protect and preserve our remaining open space and farmland by helping property owners establish conservation restrictions for their properties.

We all appreciate Dracut's natural and agricultural landscapes, which provide innumerable benefits to us all, and most of us are dismayed to see so much of our open space developed into vast stretches of housing.

Often unappreciated are the "ecosystem services" provided by natural open spaces such as moderation of hydrological water flow reducing flooding, filtration and decomposition of wastes and toxins providing clean drinking water, interception of dust in the air as a natural filter and generation of oxygen we breathe through photosynthesis. Natural open space provides habitat for multitudes of species of organisms that are valued by us today and may be of practical use to us in the future.

Dracut's remaining beautiful farmland constitutes a local foodshed which is priceless as we all crave fresh, local products.



The Ogonowski Memorial Field

## History of the Dracut Land Trust

The property now called "The Ogonowski Memorial Field" was slated for a roadway and housing as a part of the Meadow Creek Residential Golf Course Development in 1998. A number of individuals and abutters, including John Ogonowski, formed the Dracut Land Trust and through litigation and negotiation were able to reach an agreement in 2001 providing the Dracut Land Trust the first option to purchase this parcel from the developer in 2003 for \$760,500. This was the birth of DLTI. Funds for this purchase were obtained through the work of John's sister Carol Ogonowski, working with Senator Ted Kennedy and Congressman Marty Meehan who had this purchase included in that year's Federal Farm Bill.



## Dracut Land Trust Properties

### Ogonowski Memorial Field

The Dracut Land Trust owns approximately 34 acres of land at 680 Broadway Road and has frontage on both Broadway Road and Jones Avenue. This property was acquired in December of 2003 and is called the Ogonowski Memorial Field recognizing the long history of the property held by the Ogonowski family and to memorialize John Ogonowski whose life as a Dracut farmer and a founding member of DLTI was cut short by the events of 9-11.

Currently about half of the Ogonowski Memorial Field is used for production of hay, while a small parcel along Jones Avenue is in vegetable and flower production by farmers with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, which John initiated in Dracut. (photos left and above) In the wooded portion to the west of the site is Tranquility Trail which is seven tenths of a mile long and passes by two vernal pools and an old stonewall sheep pen. Deer and wild turkeys are often seen in this woodland area.

### Smith-Healy Farm

The Dracut Land Trust owns approximately 35 acres of land at 30 Wildlife Way, a cul-de-sac off Jones Avenue. This property was acquired in July of 2001 and is called the Smith-Healy Farm recognizing the historic owner of the property, Marylou Smith-Healy. Currently about a third of the Smith-Healy Farm is used for production of vegetables and flowers by farmers with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, and the rest is wooded with a band of powerline right-of-way running through it.

### George B. Richardson Hay Field

This property is owned by the Dunstable Rural Land Trust and is protected by a conservation restriction held by DLTI. The George B. Richardson Hay Field is a parcel of approximately 19 acres at the corner of Nashua Road and Mammoth Road. This "Triangle", one of the most treasured vistas in all of Dracut, was part of the estate of George B. Richardson, originally part of the vast farm of Justus Richardson that extended from Nashua Road across Beaver Brook to Lakeview Ave.

